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rs. Vilaboas Napoleon Approved For Release 2005/01/05 201A1966P75-00149R000700650017-9

Haiti Invasion Leace vasion first surfaced Sunday, while working on the story, shortly after Vilaboa had walked out on Father Georges. The control of Central Intelligence of Central Intelligence. Tells a Tale of Failure

By ORR KELLY Star Staff Writer

A former Marine captain assurances, told today how he broke up a walked out.
plan to invade Haiti and then The part led the invasion.

the invasion from beginning to and decided to try to cover it end for use as a documentary. as a news story," Salant said.

The story was told by Napo- CBS television crews filmed

Miami, Fla.

On Oct. 27, Vilaboa said, he story. was approached by the Rev. Vilaboa said he had heard Jean Baptiste Georges, a that Father Georges had colhead the military phase of the the report was true, operation, which had been planned for more than six months, had made any financial contrihe said.

Also involved, Vilaboa said, was Rolando Masferrer, a forassociate of former dictator money involved, no money at mer Cuban senator and close Fulgencio Baptista.

to gather an invasion force of volved only as reporters." about 400 men, most of them
Cuban exiles. Also included in the other Cubans involved was the group were about 20 Haile being paid. In fact, he said, tians and an equal number of many of the men bought their Americans.

There was some talk of U.S. support of the invasion—but no serious indication of it-Vilaboa said.

Vilaboa became increasingly concerned about the way the Miami area not to quit their operation was going, he said.

had failed to come up with the The story of the proposed inpromised boats and planes for the invasion.

Last Sunday morning, he said, he demanded written assurance that the necessary supplies would be made available—and that Haiti would be used as a base for operations against Cuba if the invasion were successful, He also insisted that if Mass

ferrer went along, he would be a soldier serving under Vilaboa. When he failed to get these Vilaboa said, he

The part CBS played in the use it as a base for operations operation was described by CBS Bert Quint, picked up a rumor against Cuba. He would have News President Richard Salant that an invasion had begun in

leon Vilaboa, 29, a veteran of participants in their invasion the Bay of Pigs invasion, by preparations in both New York telephone from his home in and Florida and a producer, Jay McMullan, was assigned to the

Vilaboa said he had heard Catholic priest and former min-lected some \$350,000 to finance ister of education in Haiti, the invasion, but he did not see Father Georges asked him to the money and did not know if

> Salant flatly denied that CBS bution to the organizers of the invasion.

was absolutely wno "There all, he said. "That would be The plan, Vilaboa said, was against our policy. We were in-

> own uniforms and arms and about 60 men from the New Yark area quit their jobs and went to Miami at their own ex-pense to take part in the operation.

Vilaboa told his troops in the jobs and was deeply disturbed He said he was especially when someone else told the men worried because the group had from the New York area to go poor equipment and its leaders to Miami, he said.

He said he believes Masferrer spread the word that an inva-isjon had actually begin that day in order to keep the invasion force together.

Salant, however, had a different version of what happened Sunday.

The CBS reporter in Haiti, led the invasion.

by phone from his home in New the northern part of the island, Salant said. CBS broadcast the up efforts by the Columbia "We heard about this (plan) report, but then carried a denial when it could not be confirmed. report, but then carried a de-

Since then, Salant said, Quint has reported that a very small operation did occur in Hall when asked her husband. Sunday—what he described as is "a Cuban exile and revolu-"nibbling around the edges." tionary." But apparently this was not connected in any way with the she replied: Vilaboa-Georges operation.

While working on the story reports of Central Intelligence Agency or Federal Bureau of Investigation involvement in the operation. But they were unable to confirm these reports, he said.

"We did become convinced," he said, "that various branches of the government knew about; the planned operation.'

Although the operation is now apparently at an end, Vilaboa the northern part of the island, apparently at an end, Vilaboa Salant said. CBS broadcast the still nurtures hopes for a successful return to Cuba.

Because his English is poor.

When asked her husband's occupation, she said only that he

Asked how he makes a living,

"I work."